This planting guide is one of a series produced by the Molonglo Conservation Group for the catchment and sub-catchments of the Molonglo River. The Molonglo River was and is a significant river for regional Aboriginal people. The word Molonglo is probably a corruption of Moolinggoool, an Aboriginal group from the headwaters. The river has also been highly valued since the earliest white settlement of the region, primarily because of the wide expanses of grasslands and woodlands surrounding the river.

The river begins its travels in the undulating hills of the still watered Jerangle/Captains Flat area. The original vegetation type over the lower parts of the valley, being grassland and grassy woodland, made it immediately suitable for grazing and cropping land uses, and its valley has been heavily affected by these activities. Heavy metal pollution from the Lake George Mine at Captains Flat, which closed in 1962, has contaminated the river and its floodplains. Urban, industrial and higher density rural residential landuse has encroached on the river corridor. The river has been dammed in two places, and plantation forestry and agriculture still affect the river.

This planting guide was prepared following research and site visits to the Molonglo River at various points along its length. It was produced to assist landholders and developers in conserving remnant vegetation that may be left, and providing a core list of indigenous and local species suited for rehabilitation or enhancement planting within the river corridor and surrounds. The immediate corridor is regarded as being 40 metres either side of the river.

**A Valuable Natural Asset**

Despite major impacts on the river corridor, it still is an important natural asset traversing our region, and riverine corridors are major components of wildlife migration routes through the landscape. Much of the Molonglo has been depleted of vegetation and this, plus urban development, has reduced its value as a corridor. However, many areas, including some in the urban zones, are capable of being rehabilitated as wildlife-friendly zones.

It is on the Molonglo Floodplain that the last known regional population of the Green & Golden Bell Frog, an endangered species, survives. The Pink-tail Worm Lizard occupies sites on the Lower Molonglo corridor. The various gorges contain a wealth of species and vegetation types uncommon in the region. The gorges themselves are spectacular natural features. The overall importance of the Molonglo is recognised in management plans that cover various sections of the corridor. Its natural features are featured highly in these documents.

Fencing the corridor removing weeds, replanting with native vegetation and enhancing the existing native vegetation will improve the natural values of the corridor and assist future erosion and sedimentation control.

Riverine vegetation will filter out sediments, nutrients and other pollutants from runoff. It will also enhance the corridor as a migration route for many bird species, and improve the creek environment for many other species of wildlife and for human recreation.

The species in this planting guide represent a core list of species indigenous to the various sections of the Molonglo corridor. They will assist in maintaining the ecological and environmental values of the Molonglo River, as well as hosting existing areas of remnant native vegetation.

**Vegetation of the Molonglo River Corridor**

Dry sclerophyll forest, Snow Gum woodland, grassland Floodplain, terrestrial woodland, Yellow Box woodland, Calatii woodland, Red Stinkbush shrub forest and Casuarina riparian woodland are all found in various lengths of the river corridor. Rare riverine plant species located on the river are Bullocka (Acacia uniflora), Currangray (Acacia buxifolia), Black Oaks (Eucalyptus camaldulensis) and Rough Maiden Hair Fern (Adiantum hispidulmum), the pea Bossiaea bracteosa, Large Tick-trell (Desmodium brachytyrum), Australian Anchor Plant (Dioscorea pescuacea) and Pale Pomaderris (Pomaderris pallida), all associated with the Molonglo and Lower Molonglo gorges.

From just above the Lower Molonglo Gorge, to the Gorge, the riverine and nearby vegetation has changed dramatically. Woodlands and grasslands have mostly succumbed to the extreme pressures of urban and rural impacts. Along the Molonglo Gorge the situation does not greatly improve, with the grasslands, woodlands and grassy floodplains being greatly modified under grazing pressure. The vegetation above Captains Flat is less disturbed than the area from the Fordow floodplains to the Murrumbidgee. Almost everywhere else, the riverine vegetation has been highly impacted and or removed, leaving a reinfested river corridor and surrounds. The map on the middle page shows the vegetation of the creek divided into sections for easy reference to the planting lists.

The species lists, while dealing with separate vegetation sections of the river, have some species in common. Where high quality areas of native vegetation still exist, it would be best to enhance the area (if needed) with species similar to those already existing in the immediate area.
The Molonglo Conservation Group

The Molonglo Conservation Group is a community-based group focussed on the rehabilitation and management of the Molonglo River catchment and its sub-catchments. It can assist in the provision of information that may be available for rehabilitation projects on Molonglo River, including access to government grants, ground preparation, weed management, fencing, plant supply and after-planting care.

KEY

MOLONGLO RIVER

- SECTION 1
- SECTION 2
- SECTION 3
- SECTION 4
- SECTION 5
- SECTION 6

Recommended plants for each section are listed overleaf.

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